Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.
Editor: Michael P Birks, Flixton Girls' School, Urmston, Manchester M31 3DR, England 061-747 5924 (Home)

Vol.III, No.46 January 1992

S Main Packet Sec: Brian Sylvester, 3 Russel Court, St Lukes Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7AP
Group leader : Richard Saundry, Gwrych Cottage, Godstone Road, Bletchingley, Redhill, Surrey RH1 4PL 0883 742186
Group treasurer : Colin Eddleston, 19 Sion Hill, BATH BA1 2UJ 0225 315608

EDITORIAL

First may I remind you that subscription notices were sent out with our last issue and if you have not already renewed your subscription please do so as soon as possible. No further reminders will be sent, and this will be the last issue for those not renewing.

This is the first issue printed on the new printer we have purchased at the school where I teach. After the usual teething problems everything now seems to be going well and I hope you are pleased with the result.

I am pleased to be able to include another Private Treaty list. You will see that the scope and number of lots is gradually increasing, and I hope that this trend will continue.

For some time it has been suggested that Spanish Main/Group displays are too specialised for many members. In an attempt to address this criticism the meeting at the Victory Services Club on February 1, 1992, will be the first of a series of displays of a more general nature, each highlighting one Republic. The aim is to interest those who do not collect that particular country and to encourage the less advanced collector who does. The February meeting will be "Nicaragua" by your editor, who will be only too pleased to try and answer particular queries not only about the stamps themselves, but about the background to their origin. I hope that this new venture will encourage more members to attend and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible whom I only know by name at present.

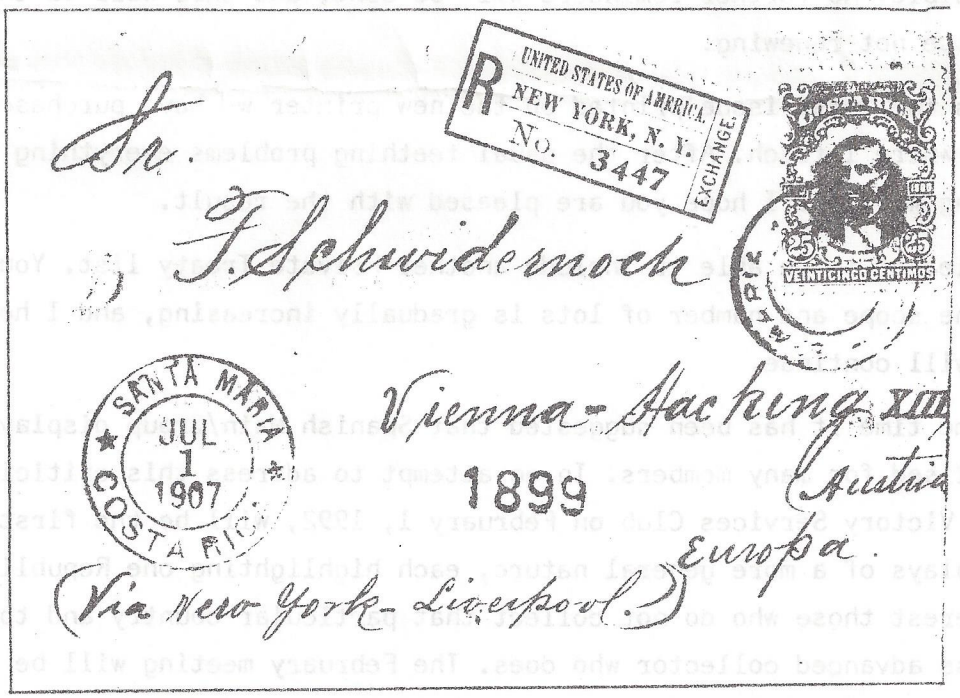
mpb

It is with sadness that I report the death of Cyril Woodtli of Manchester, England. It was Cyril who started me collecting Nicaragua in 1976 and his fluent Spanish was put to good use in translating several chapters of "Seebeck: Hero or Villain". Our condolences to his wife, Mercedes, and their children.

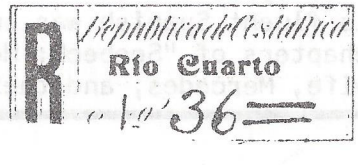
COSTA RICAN REGISTRATION LABELS by HECTOR R MENA

In a recent CANL issue Dr Saundry reviewed this forgotten area of Costa Rican philately. His artical referred to the relative scarcity of particular label types and his comments awoke my curiosity sufficiently to look at my files and at photographs published in our few philatelic journals.

I would like to report a nice cover dating from 1907, bearing a registration label from Santa Maria which corresponds to Saundry type I subgroup b, but it is perforated. The cover itself has been of great interest to me since it accurately traces its origin to the small town of Santa Maria de Dota. This isolated agricultural county had a total population of 3,413 inhabitants in 1900[1]. The letter left Santa Maria by horse on July 1, 1907 and arrived in San Jose the next day. It reached New Orleans by steamer on July 12. On July 17 it arrived in New York where it received an exchange registration label and finally reached its destination in Vienna on July 25. The 1905 stamp is cancelled by a different undated device. The sender requested the letter be delivered via New York - Liverpool.

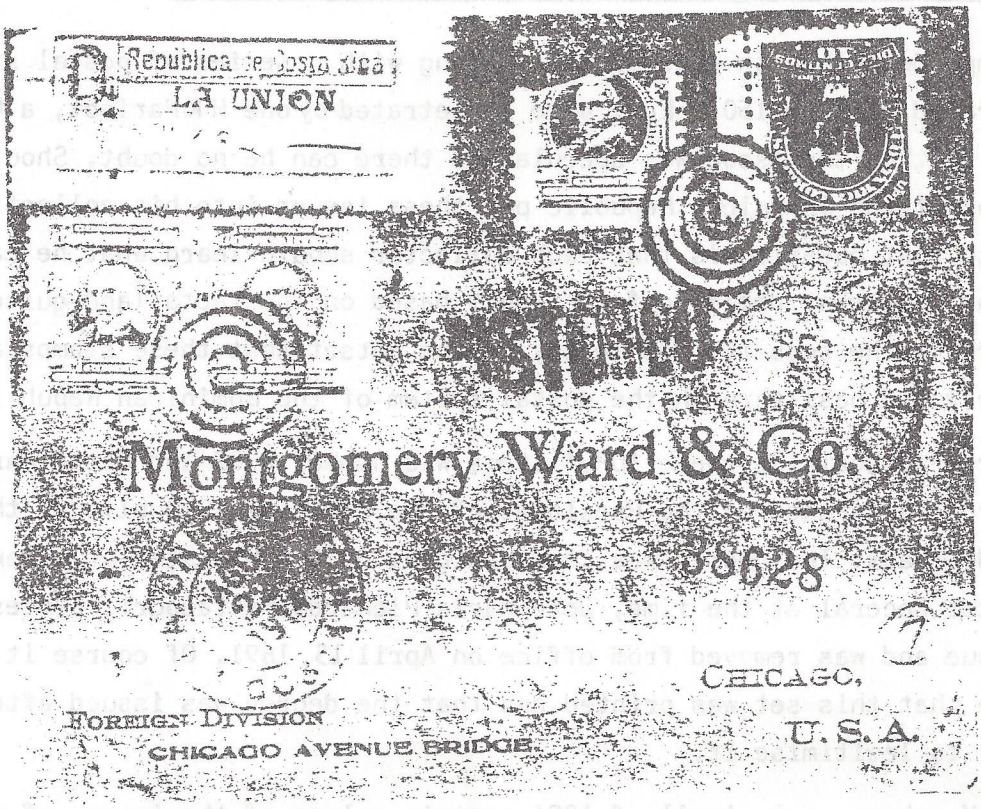


The cover demonstrates that these labels were used in 1907 and that perforated types existed. I have looked through the issues of Repertorio Filatelico Costarricense and Oxcart and I could not find an illustration of a cover of this period bearing this registration label. The actual rarity of these labels used in the first decade of the twentieth century will be known when other CANL readers start reviewing their files and letting us know the results of their enquiry.



Similar registration labels with town names were used between c1915 to 1930. These examples belong to Hal Edwards.

Another commercial cover, from the town of La Union, is illustrated here.



La Union is now the name of the county, but a town of that name existed in the Province of Cartago. This county is composed of towns along the main road between the old cities of Cartago and San Jose. The letter left La Union on August 22, 1914, arrived in New York on September 3, in Chicago on September 4 and at Montgomery Ward the next day. It is franked with four common stamps of the 1910 issue, one missing the upper part. The registration label is the same as the previous cover and probably corresponds to type I subgroup a, and was perforated. Mr Hal Edwards has sent me photocopies of two covers from the 1920's from the towns of Turrialba and Jimenez which also appear to bear this type of label. An explanation of the use of this label in unclear: whether those small post offices were in possession of a label supply printed several years before, or was this a reprint of the old labels? If the latter is true, more covers should exist, because at this time correspondence with other countries was more frequent.

[1]Bishop Thiel, Monografia de la Poblacion de Costa Rica en el Siglo XIX. In Poblacion de Costa Rica, pages 17-52, Editorial Costa Rica, San Jose, 1977.

Lyons, William: The Registration Labels of Costa Rica. Oxcart 77:108-114, 1979.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: AN UNLISTED POSTAL STATIONERY SURCHARGE. C Olin Sethness writes:

"Unquestionably (the envelope illustrated in the last issue) is one of a group of Dominican republic stamps and stationery known as the "PARISOT" issues. Col. James Smith, who is quite an authority on most phases of RD philately, has written a couple of articles on this curious anomaly (and we reprint it on page 160 - Ed). The cover is known in two sizes:140 x 79mm and 152 x 86mm."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: THE "UPU" ISSUE OF 1891 by JAMES SMITH

The stamps described in this article, along with a series of postal stationery (illustrated on page 150 - Ed), were perpetrated by one H K Parisot, a Paris stamp dealer. In that the issue was speculative there can be no doubt. Should the collector of the Dominican Republic put these issues into his collection? The answer to that question is that each collector should learn what he can about the issue and make that decision for himself based on the facts (and quite a bit of guesswork) as he sees it. Let me say at the outset that these stamps and postal stationery did pass through the postal system of the Dominican Republic.

The decree authorising these 'UPU' items was number 2989 and dated March 20, 1891. The decree was signed by the President of the Dominican Republic at that time, Ulises Heureaux. The decree was countersigned by the Minister of Finance. The Postmaster General at the time, Jose Maria Pichardo Bentacourt, protested about this issue and was removed from office on April 15, 1891. Of course it is entirely possible that this set was printed and that the decree was issued after the printing in order to legitimise it.

In late March or early April of 1891 certain values of the issues of 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1883 were overprinted with a large X which separated the stamp into four triangles. In the top triangle there is a 'P' while the triangles to the left and right contain a 'U'. The bottom part of the triangle has the new value in it. It is assumed that the 'UPU' overprint was to make the set appear entirely legal in all respects. For the purpose of being able to detect forgeries more easily it should be noted that there are two types of overprints. First the distance from the right side of the left 'U' to the left side of the right 'U' measures 8mm on all values lower than 50 centavos. This distance on stamps of a denomination of 50 centavos or higher is 12mm. The distance separating the ends of the large X are 19mm at both the top and the bottom. These figures apply to the stamps only and not the postal stationery.

Most covers found with the stamps on them were mailed in April or May of 1891. I have only seen one cover that was not posted during this period, but there could well be others. The covers are, in at least ninety per cent of the cases, addressed to either H K Parisot or a 'Mme Ritter' in either New York City or Paris, France. It appears that 'Ritter' was Mrs Parisot's maiden name. Some covers can also be found addressed to a 'Mme Parisen' in Paris. I have never seen an a cover which was not registered or not posted from Santo Domingo.

What was the reason for this issue? There is quite a lot of speculation amongst collectors regarding this and I guess that we will never know all of the facts behind it, but possibly the best source of information are articles and speeches by H K Parisot himself. In 'LE ECHO' of 1906 page 125, Parisot refers to a report that

he gave to the French Philatelic Society on the subject of this issue in 1892. In the report Parisot says that the issue was a legitimate one and gives his reasons for this position. According to Parisot an order for stamps of the type of the issue of 1885 was placed with the American Bank Note Company in December 1890. The ABNCo had, of course, printed the issue of 1895. The communications between New York City and Santo Domingo were very slow and the order did not arrive as soon as the government of the Dominican Republic thought it should. It is not known what happened to this order. Whilst waiting for the new issue some of the values of the 1885 set became exhausted. Parisot goes on to say that owing to this shortage of some values, and the non-arrival of the new order, the government authorised the overprint as a provisional measure. (I should like to point out here that the 50 centavos, 1 peso and 2 pesos values of the issue of 1891 arrived at the post office in Santo Domingo on February 10, 1891. They had been printed by the ABNCo. There should have been no shortage of these three values. Also the 1885 set did not contain any 80 or 90 centavos values as did the Parisot overprints so those values, which may have been needed, could not have been found to be short in supply as they did not exist. This leaves only the 1 and 2 centavos values that could have been in short supply). When Mr Parisot was asked why he had purchased the majority (possibly the entire) issue his reply was that whilst in the Dominican Republic he had acquired a large sum of the local currency. (He did not say why he was in the Dominican Republic or how much currency he had or how he had acquired it). He said that he could not get rid of the currency at a favourable rate of exchange in France as no one there wanted the currency of the Dominican Republic. He therefore would lose much of his money unless he could find a way to convey it into something more negotiable. Since a new issue of a stamps had just comeout he decided, as a stamp dealer, to purchase as much of this issue as he could. He could then sell it to stamp dealers in Europe and in that way convert his currency into the hard currency of Europe. Parisot definitely states that this issue was not made on his account and that he had nothing to do with its issuance.

This then is the case as we know it and as stated by Parisot. I would like to say here that there are certain people who do not believe that Parisot was ever in the Dominican Republic at all, but had the stamps of the issues that were overprinted sent to him in Paris where he applied the overprint. He then got hold of some genuine cancelling devices and made up his own covers. A part of this could be true, but we do have covers that have New York City markings showing that the covers were there ..... unless Parisot could have faked that also. I, for one, do not believe that Parisot was in the Dominican Republic but believe at least a part of the above as stated by Parisot.

Still it remains for each of us to make up our own minds regarding this issue.

(I am unable to acknowledge the publication in which this article was originally published, but will gladly do so if informed - Ed)

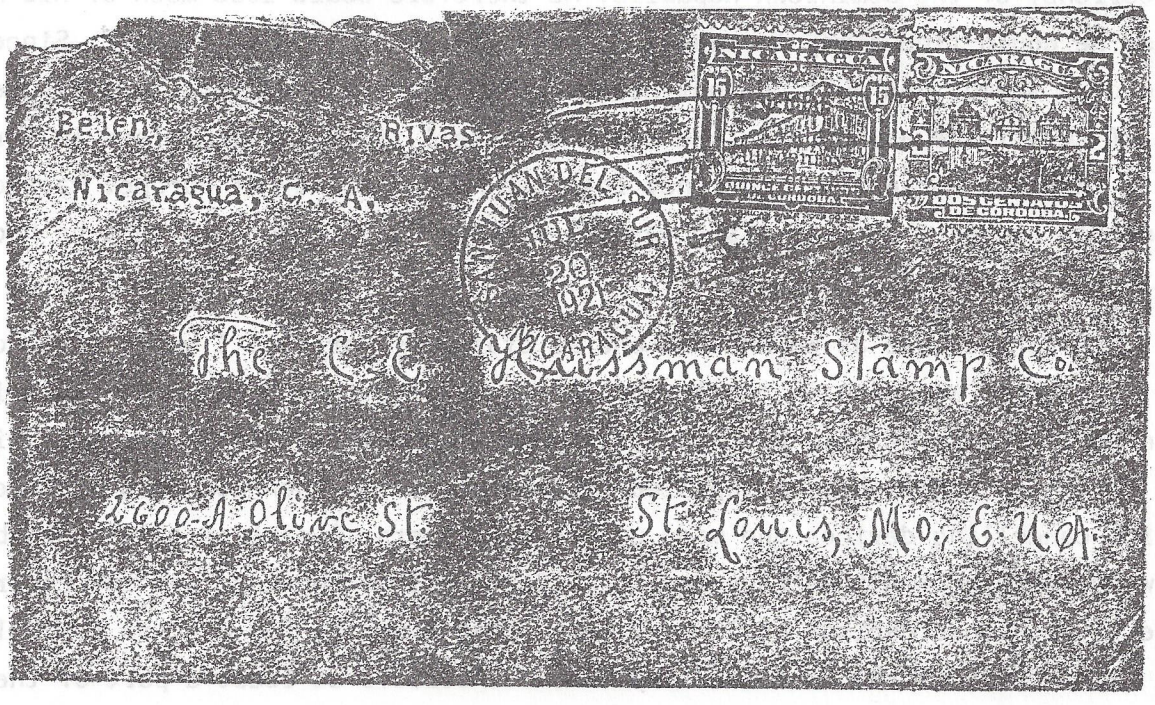
NICARAGUA: THE 'R DE C' STAMPS by D N KILNER

(Continued from the previous issue)

Use of the Stamps

Over the years from 1921 onwards, fires and earthquakes have presumably destroyed all records kept in the Post Office buildings in Managua. Up to the present time I have yet to find any official mention of how the stamps were meant to be used. There is a mention under Nicaragua in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Part 15, under the heading 'R de C Overprints' and a mention in Daft's paper given to the Royal Philatelic Society in November 1962. These both state that a compulsory tax of 1 centavo was levied on every letter and package, the proceeds of which provided funds for the rebuilding of the Post Office.

An article on Nicaragua by John L Stroub also stated that a tax of 1 centavo was levied on each piece of all classes of domestic and foreign mail. Further, that the tax was not universal as the countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia together with Panama, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay were exempt. It further stated that on certain fourth class mail (newspapers) the tax was reduced to ½ centavo. This exemption would therefore confine the tax to domestic mail, and mail to all countries on the exempt list. The signing of the Latin American postal convention on February 1, 1921 effectively changed the rate to the USA from 5c to the internal rate of 2c and this mail became liable to the obligatory tax.



The introduction of the compulsory tax was to all intents and purposes an increase of 1 centavo on the domestic rate, making it 3c with 1c going to the reconstruction fund.

The following is the result of a survey of fifty eight covers ranging from 1921 to 1938. The number of covers is admittedly rather small but the results are interesting.

In thirty eight of the covers, the tax was collected by an appropriate obligatory tax stamp. The illustration on the opposite page shows a cover to the USA dated July 20, 1921, with a 2c stamp plus one of the first provisional issues - 1c surcharge on 15c official stamp - to collect the tax. It should be noticed that the majority of covers that attracted the tax were addressed to the USA, and other countries in Central America or were internal Nicaraguan mail.

In three cases, the tax had been collected with stamps other than obligatory tax stamps. The above postal stationery envelope surcharged for internal use and postmarked December 17, 1923, had attracted a T handstamp which could only refer to the fact that no tax stamp had been added. The tax had actually been paid with a bisected 2c definitive stamp on the back of the envelope, probably because of a shortage of obligatory tax stamps.

to be continued

WHAT RATE IS BEING PAID ON THIS NICARAGUAN POSTAL CARD? In our last issue we illustrated a portion of a card sent to us by Michael Schreiber. The card had for no apparent reason been uprated with a 1c adhesive. I am sorry to say that no explanation for this uprating has been forthcoming. However I am assured by several members who saw this card at London 90, that the card and postmarks are quite genuine. Indeed it would be inconceivable at that level to display an item of this sort if it were anything but 100% genuine. In addition to the $\frac{6}{M}$ cancellation, the card also bears a double ring circular date stamp of Managua dated July 20, 1879.

THE REVENUE STAMPS OF NICARAGUA

Continued from page 149.

(e) Capital Gains Tax

19--. Engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Company. Perf 12. Size 22 x 26mm.

G1 2½c dull red
G2 5c blue
G3 10c brown
G4 20c mauve
G5 50c green

19--. Engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Company. Perf 12. Size 28·5 x 34mm.

G6 1c brown
G7 2c grey black
G8 10c dull green
G9 50c orange
G10 5 Cor lake
G11 20 Cor purple brown

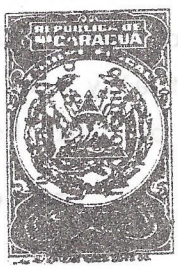
(f) Tobacco Tax

1930. Lithographed. Perf 13½. Size 70 x 20mm.

T1 1c blue and black

c1930. Two line black surcharge, reading up, "Impt. S/Cigarillos" and "Impt.—Nicaragua".

T2 10c orange (on customs stamp)
T3 10c rose (blue opt) (on consular stamp)

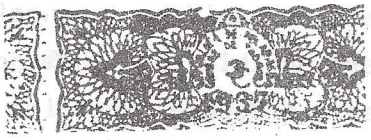


19--. General revenue stamp surcharged in three lines in red, reading down, "diez centavos Cordoba/Dept. S. Cigarillos/Impt. Nicaragua".

T4 5c brown

c1933. Lithographed. Imperforate. Horizontal format 48 x 16·5mm.

T5 ½c violet
T6 1c blue
T7 3c rose violet

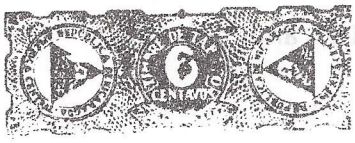


1937. T7 surcharged horizontally in black "Vale Dos Centavos" and in red "1937".

T8 2c on 3c rose violet

1935-37. Lithographed. Imperforate. Horizontal format, size 50·5 x 14mm.
(Stamp as T13 without overprint)

T9 2c blue
T10 4c orange
T11 6c carmine
T12 12c green



1938. Red horizontal overprint "1938"

T13 6c carmine

1939. Red horizontal overprint "1939" on T9.

T14 2c blue

1943. Black vertical overprint "1943" on T12.

T15 12c green

1945. Black vertical surcharge. "1945" and "Vale/Cinco/Centavos" in three lines on T10

T16 5c on 4c orange

c1945. Lithographed. Imperforate, Vertical format size 10·5 45mm.
(Stamp as T18 without overprint)

T17 10c red

Stamp T17 overprinted "1945" horizontally in black (illustrated).

T18 10c red

Date? Lithographed. Imprint "Litografia San Jose". Imperforate. Size 20·5 x 38·5mm.

T19 15c blue
T20 33c red brown

As T19-20, with Imprint "Litografia Robelo".

T21 15c blue
T22 33c red brown (shades)

1949. As T19-20, with imprint "Artes Graficas Duschendorf. 1949" in lower panel.

T23 33c pink

(g) Alcohol(?) Tax

c1946. Lithographed. Imprint "Litografia Robelo". Imperforate. Size 21 x 38·5mm. Without inscribed value.

A1 brown
A2 yellow
A3 blue

A3 overprinted "Tanic" and "1946".

A4 blue

(h) Social Security and Pension Taxes

Since a series numbered 1 to 12 is known perforated, it is likely that a similar series exists imperforate. The known imperforate stamps are listed with values and spaces left for the values not yet reported.

Lithographed by E A Wright Bank Note Co. of Philadelphia. Imperforate. Size 11 x 18·5mm.

S1	Numbered 1.		
S2	2.	4.05 Cor	green
S3	3.	5.95 Cor	blue
S4	4.	7.90 Cor	light brown
S5	5.	10.10 Cor	magenta
S6	6.	13.25 Cor	orange
S7	7.		
S8	8.		
S9	9.	(Number 5 is undoubtedly	
S10	10.	magenta and not violet)	
S11	11.		
S12	12.		

Perf 12.

S13	Numbered 1.	2.15	Cor	red
S14	2.	4.70	Cor	green
S15	3.	6.85	Cor	blue
S16	4.	9.00	Cor	light brown
S17	5.	11.50	Cor	violet (?)
S18	6.	15.10	Cor	orange
S19	7.	20.50	Cor	light blue
S20	8.	28.10	Cor	dark brown
S21	9.	37.80	Cor	dark violet
S22	10.	49.00	Cor	yellow
S23	11.	60.85	Cor	red brown
S24	12.	74.15	Cor	grey

c1948. Black two line surcharge "Timbre P. de R. y M./Vale Cinco Centavos" on SG 1133, Scott C296 and SG 1120, Scott C717.

S25 5c on 1c light brown
S26 5c on 1c red

Black two line overprint reading up inscribed "Timbre/P. de R. y M." on SG 1146, Scott RA60.

S27 5c turquoise

c1959. Three line overprint in red reading down, "Pensiones de/Retiro y Mon-/tepio G.N." on postal tax stamp SG 1359, Scott RA65.

S28 5c grey blue

Similar overprint on orchid set SG 1450-59, Scott RA66-75 in black in four lines "Pensiones/de Retiro/ y Montepio/G.N.". Stamps seen listed below.

S29 5c Cattleya skinneri
S30
S31
S32
S33
S34 5c Maxillaria Tenuifolia (illustrated)
S35 5c Stanhopea ecornuta
S36 5c Oncidium ascendens
S37
S38

(i) Clothing Tax

c1900. Lithographed. Perf 12. Size 24·5 x 29·5mm.

B1 5c red (illustrated)

Lithographed. Ragged non-measurable perfs, as above but without "TELEGRAFO" above value.

B2 50c green

B1 surcharged in violet, in three lines "Vale/$1.00/ Ornato".

B3 1p on 5c red

c1905. Lithographed. Perf 12. Size 24 x 26·5mm. (Stamp as B7 without overprint)

B4 5c black
B5 10c black
B6 50c black

1908. B5 overprinted vertically in violet in an oval "Admon. Zelaya/J.F./10 de Julio 1908".

B7 10c black

(j) Stamped Revenue Paper

1889. Illustrated far left.

5c red

1891. Illustrated left.

50c blue

to be continued

Corrections

On page 149 the various issues were lettered 'C' rather than 'D'. Since these allocated numbers are temporary this will only affect readers' responses in the short term.

Comments

From John Fosbery of Newton Abbot:
I enclose clearer illustrations of the stamps listed on page 147.

C2a

C6

Education Tax. Moens 1893 catalogue says of "Instruccion Publica" that "Ces timbres servent a acquitter les droits sur les lettres de change et la produit partagé par moité entre les ministères de finance et de l'instruction publique" which translates as "These stamps served to pay the tax on bills of exchange; half the amount produced was shared by the Ministry of Finance with the Ministry of Education".

E8 & 9 and 10. The first two are from Mexico and the last from Salvador, and should be deleted.

R2. I have a copy clearly double; there are also minor varieties 'le' for 'de' and a double stroke through the dollar sign. They probably exist on all values.

D1a. I think 1a must be deleted; this was reported in June 1977 but Eric Jackson in the American Revenuer of February 1988 says he "has acquired the document illustrated and, although the paper appears white, there is still a trace of blue and the item looks subject to treatment or exposure". This gentleman also reports a round 20c and $1 similar to the first issue but embossed on dark blue paper. The 20c he says is cancelled September 1893 and the dollar value 1894 in black. Neither seems to be on piece or document and these two items seem the ONLY ones recorded, maybe a note rather than a full listing. He says, 'dependent on where you read' there are either two or three only known or else there is only a single copy of the dollar.

From Clyde Maxwell of Irvine CA:
C18. All values of the issue for the west of Nicaragua are known suitably inscribed for the Department of Zelaya. Thus there are six values not one.*

D1-4. 1893, as D1-4, but embossed impression only, cut to circular shape. (See JF's remarks after D1a). 20c dark blue
$1 dark blue

D5-7 (p149). The following foot note should be added "A 10c green is known imperforate in pair. This may be a colour trial or colour proof".

*John Fosbery has a proof of C12 inscribed "DEP de ZELAYA".